m: 245

Strange and Wonderful

NEWS

FROM

Bull-and-Mouth-ſtreet:

OR,

A faithful and true

ACCOUNT

HOW

A CHILD of Five days old

was heard to ſpeak ſeveral words diſtinctly, and with a loud and manly voice;

On *Friday* the 21 of this inſtant *June*, 1678.

To the great amazement of thoſe that were preſent.

Publiſhed for general Satisfaction to prevent falſe Reports which are apt to be raiſed on this occaſion. The Truth of this Relation will be atteſted by the Mother of the Child, and the Nurſe.

With Allowance.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Strange and Wonderful

NEWS

FROM

Bull-and-Mouth-Street, &c.

AMongſt all the Wonderful Accidents that have happen'd in this Age, I think there is ſcarce any that for its ſtrangeneſs can compare with this we are going to relate: And becauſe upon a thing ſo rare and unfrequent, there are generally ſpread abroad many untrue Relations, as in this very Caſe we have already experimented, every one telling the matter according to his or her fancy, rather than

the real Truth, 'tis therefore thought fit for preventing those abusive Rumours, and satisfying the World, to publish fully and sincerely a True Narrative of the matter of Fact, which is as follows;

On Munday the 17th of *June*, in *Bull-and-Mouth-Street*, near *Aldersgate*, a Founders Wife was brought to Bed and Delivered of a lusty Man Child, about Five of the Clock in the Morning of the said day, (the Parents of the Child being Industrious and Godly People.) It hapned that on the Friday following, *viz.* the 21 of this instant, the Father of this Child being abroad upon his lawful occasions, and none at home but the Mother and her Nurse, another Child of about a year and a quarter old, and this New-born Babe, on a sudden the little Infant, just at the time when the black thick dark Cloud covered all this part of the Sky, immediately before the Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, which that day happened, just at that time I say, the little Infant, to the wonderful Affright and Astonishment of

the

the Mother, who was got up and at that instant, had the bigest Child before mentioned in her Lap, raised its Head and upper part of its Body up from the Pillow, and with an audible loud and Manly voice, uttered several distinct Words, so clearly, that they were heard all over the Chamber, and having so done, it fetched a great Hem as strong and loud, as a full grown Man could do, and then ceased without Crying, or any inclination thereunto.

What the words were exactly, both the Mother and the Nurse do constantly affirm, that they cannot declare, and this as well by reason of the Extraordinary fright they were in to hear such a Babe speak with the voice of a Man, as because its speaking did likewise fright the other bigger Child of a year and quarter old, which the Mother had in her Lap, that it fell to Crying so violently, as hindred them from taking such notice of the particular words, as otherwise they might possibly have done, but this they justifie, that it uttered several distinct Words

Words, about three in a Sentence; and with as clear and intelligible Tone of Voice as any Man could do; whereupon the Nurſe cryed out, *Bleſs us, the Child ſpeaks!* whereupon by way of Anſwer, the Child anſwered *I:* which laſt words onely they can remember; but the reſt for the reaſons aforeſaid, they cannot ſet forth.

We told you that the Father was then abroad, and yet we may ſay not altogether inſenſible of this ſtrange Accident, for at the ſame inſtant, as near as can be gathered, he was ſudenly taken ill very with a pain in his head as he was walking along the Street, and for ſome time was not able readily to go on: However, getting home, he was there welcomed with this wonderful Tydings of his Sons ſpeaking, to which as a thing impoſſible, he at firſt gave no credit, but rather reprov'd them for ſpeaking of ſuch a thing, and told them they muſt ſure be miſtaken, and take the Childs Crying for Speaking; but they perſiſted in it, telling him, *That as aſſuredly as ever he ſpake in his*

his life, ſo certainly and diſtinctly had the Child ſpoke, thereupon relating the whole matter, and all its Circumſtances, in the ſame manner as they are herein before ſet forth, and do continue to juſtifie and avouch the ſame.

This is the true Narrative of this Wonderful Accident which has made ſo much Diſcourſe in the VVorld, and all that can be known of it, ſave only this, that the Child ſtill continues well, luſty, and thriving. The multitudes that dayly flock to the Parents houſe upon inquiry about it, to the great diſturbance of the Family, have in ſome ſort rendred it neceſſary to publiſh this much, that all people may be ſatisfied as far as Truth can do it; for as for the VVords, which moſt people are moſt inquiſitive after, they cannot be ſet forth.

Though this Accident be very rare, yet it is not altogether imparallel'd; former Ages have been ſenſible of ſuch early Orators, and our own Chronicles tell us of a Boy in *Kent*,

Kent, that was heard to laugh ſeveral times very plainly in his Mothers Belly. At *Rome* in the year of the World Three thouſand ſeven hundred twenty five, a Child of ſix weeks old was heard to ſpeak, and at that Age to proclaim a Triumph, which ſhortly after did enſue. There is yet another Child mentioned by Authors in the days of *Cyrus*, That at ſix Months old, Prophesy'd or foretold his Victory over *Creſus* King of *Lydia*; ſeveral other the like Examples may we doubt not be met with by thoſe that are converſant in Hiſtory.

The Publiſher of this Relation read it to the Father and Mother of the Child, and they declared that every Syllable of it was true.

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FINIS.